

on threats posed by Iraq, and make recommendations to Congress and the President regarding steps to enhance the accuracy of intelligence and representations regarding intelligence. The Commission would have the ability to recommend that its findings be made public.

Unlike with congressional committees examining intelligence on Iraq, no political party would have an advantage on the Iraq Commission. Based on the model of the 9/11 Commission which was thoroughly vetted by Congress, the Commission on Intelligence about Iraq would be composed of five members appointed by Republicans and five appointed by Democrats.

Some have tried to deflect efforts to explore questions about the handling of intelligence on Iraq as "revisionist history" or equated such efforts with questioning the war in Iraq. This is misdirected criticism. The purpose of the Commission is simple: to understand the truth.

The Commission's effort should proceed regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the ultimate decision to wage war in Iraq, and regardless of whether biological or chemical weapons ultimately are found there. The credibility of our government will remain in jeopardy if we do not resolve doubts regarding the handling of classified information on Iraq.

COMMENDING THE SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the San Mateo Police Department, whose creative and effective policing strategies over the past decade merit recognition and praise by this body.

Law enforcement is one of the principal functions of responsible government, and the duties of a police department are as vital as they are numerous. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enormous strains police departments nationwide are currently experiencing, with their budgets shrinking even as their responsibilities multiply. New antiterrorism duties have been met in many cases not, Mr. Speaker, by additional funds, but by service and pay cuts, as the present Administration and Congressional leadership undermine our nation's Finest with their irresponsible theology of tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the police departments of America for their selfless and courageous service in this most trying time for our nation, and in offering our sympathy as they work hard to make America safe.

The San Mateo Police Department stands out among police departments nationally as a paragon of public service and public sensitivity, and has worked creatively to forge partnerships with the community.

Mr. Speaker, the SMPD has made tremendous strides in recent years. During the period from 1997 to 2002, the overall crime rate in San Mateo plummeted 8 percent and there was not a single murder in the city of nearly 100,000 people. The SMPD's hard work has clearly paid off, and in addition to lower crime rates, it has yielded dividends that cannot be quantified.

Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, the SMPD launched a Community Oriented Policing program, with the ambitious goal of improving the quality of life for every single person who lives and works in the City of San Mateo. The Department sought to accomplish this task by engaging the individuals, businesses, and local service organizations of San Mateo, as well as appropriate outside governmental agencies, and their approach has been enormously successful.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the San Mateo Police Department has been incredibly innovative in its efforts to reach out to the community. Among the more creative initiatives launched by the SMPD in recent years is the Citizen-Police Ride-Along Program, in which San Mateo residents accompany an officer in a police cruiser in order to get a sense of what a police patrol is like. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the SMPD has teamed up with San Mateo Parks & Recreation to form the Police Activities League (PAL), an organization with support from the State of California that helps promote trust and understanding between cops and kids. Six years into the program, the verdict is in and it is unambiguous: PAL has been an unqualified success and has contributed to a marked improvement in relations between youth and law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to single out San Mateo Chief of Police Susan E. Manheimer for her leadership and her commitment to the principles of equality, professionalism, justice, and the highest standards of ethics. I have the utmost confidence that her commitment to a focused approach of Problem Oriented Policing will further reduce crime in the City of San Mateo and contribute generally to a better quality of life in the area, and I congratulate her on the Department's accomplishments under her stewardship.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincerest and most heartfelt congratulations to police officers Bob Szelenyi and Fred Haney on their promotion to the rank of Sergeant in the San Mateo Police Department. I have known Bob personally since his infancy, and consider him a man of great character, industry, and integrity. In his decade and a half on the force, Mr. Speaker, Bob has established himself as a leader in mediation and negotiation, and is held in the highest regard for his involvement with San Mateo youth.

Officer Szelenyi has been awarded multiple public service awards for his work with kids, Mr. Speaker, and has earned the respect of his colleagues and many others in my district and the entire Bay Area for his successful negotiation of a gang truce several years ago. That truce prevented countless acts of violence and untold suffering, and we are all eternally indebted to him for his hard work on behalf of the lives and safety of the people of San Mateo.

While I did not have the privilege of watching Mr. Haney take his first steps, Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with his work because his remarkable contributions to the community of San Mateo are so well-known. I am proud that he is one of the top officers defending my community, and I believe his work in preventing gang violence, both as an individual officer and as a member of a special gang task force, contributed to the drop in crime my community has enjoyed over the past five years. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Mr. Haney on his work at the

frontier of digital evidence and high-tech crimes. He is a model public servant, and I salute him.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my warmest congratulations to the San Mateo Police Department, Police Chief Manheimer, and Sergeants Szelenyi and Haney, and my unending thanks to them for their service to the people of San Mateo. I wish them Godspeed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. This is the first appropriations bill for the new Department and there are few legislative issues that will have as great an impact on our nation.

As many of my colleagues are aware, I have continually expressed concern over inadequate funding available for first responders. I introduced legislation in both this, and the 107th Congress to remedy this funding shortfall. So, when I first reviewed this legislation, I was pleased to note that it provides \$888 million more to first responders than the President requested. However, the CBO estimates that with price increases in the current fiscal year, this legislation, in real dollar terms, is about \$150 million below current levels. The proposed legislation is clearly inadequate to provide the homeland security we need.

This is especially alarming given the fact that the states are suffering their worst fiscal crisis since World War II. The National Governors' Association reports that 46 states have significant revenue shortfalls, and that several have shortfalls in excess of \$1 billion. Homeland Security is one of our most critical national priorities, and yet this Administration is determined to offer \$350 billion in new tax breaks.

A number of critical security shortfalls are not addressed in this legislation. For instance, the U.S. Coast Guard estimates that to adequately secure our ports with cameras and other security measures will cost approximately \$4.4 billion, yet this bill provides only \$100 million for this initiative. In addition, there are no funds in this bill to improve methods of inspecting people and cargo entering this country through our ports. Nor are there any funds to increase the number of containers inspected. According to nearly every expert in the field of security, these areas have been severely neglected since 9/11.

With the budget deficit projected at more than \$400 billion this year, a few billion more for homeland security won't matter very much. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider what a "yes" vote will mean for a number of Amendments that will be introduced later